

24 July 2025



Our ref: OIA 2526-0062

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

Response to your Official Information Act request

I refer to your email of 27 June 2025 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) in relation to the Language Assistance Services (LAS) programme:

1. *The total amount of public funding spent on the LAS programme since its inception, broken down by financial year*
2. *The total amount spent specifically on interpreter training and NAATI test preparation or subsidies*
3. *The number of interpreters supported to sit the NAATI test, and the number who passed*
4. *The total amount paid to NAATI or related service providers*
5. *Any evaluations, reviews, or internal assessments of the programme's outcomes or cost-effectiveness*
6. *The date and rationale for transferring responsibility for LAS from MBIE to the Ministry for Ethnic Communities*
7. *Any changes to programme scope, funding, or delivery model as a result of this transition*

On 23 July 2025, the following part of your request was transferred to the Ministry for Ethnic Communities under section 14(b) of the Official Information Act 1982:

- *Any changes to programme scope, funding, or delivery model as a result of this transition*

The Ministry's initial focus following the completion of the transfer of Language Assistance Services from MBIE is to ensure all key relationships and the service delivery model are fully embedded under the lead of the Ministry. A review of the business-as-usual model transferred by MBIE will be undertaken in the future to ensure it remains fit for purposes, however currently there are no changes planned by the Ministry.

Please note, due to the public interest in our work, the Ministry may publish responses to requests for official information on our website, shortly after the response has been sent. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team:

Ministerial@ethniccommunities.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Edward Firth", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Edward Firth

Director of Ministerial Services